

PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT.

To be Solved by Wage Earners at the Ballot Box.

EDITOR ADAMCOTT:—The anomalous condition of people suffering for the necessities of life, in a land of such unbounded resources as are found in the United States; and the still more appalling spectacle of human beings starving to death at a time of overproduction and low prices, is surely indicative of an abnormal state, the cause of which is directly chargeable to certain false principles which enter into our economic system.

There is food and clothing enough in the country and money enough to buy them, to bring cheer and comfort to every household in the land. But unfortunately the money is in the hands of those who do not need our surplus products, and those who do need them are not able to buy them.

After having made a careful survey of the field, and having arrived at these conclusions, it would seem to be the duty of statesmen to institute a thorough investigation with a view to determining what these false principles are; and, having determined, to devise means for their removal. An investigation made by true statesmen, with honest convictions, and with unbiased and unprejudiced minds, would doubtless soon lead to the discovery of the false economy which is responsible for the unwarranted and intolerable condition of which we complain. But, unfortunately for the country, our legislative halls have not been filled by men possessed with the above named qualifications. Prejudice and political strife, together with corporate influence have been between the people and honest legislation for all of thirty years past, and at present writing there is no sign of any change for the better.

It cannot be denied that the people have just cause for charging their supposed representatives with having acted in bad faith in legislative matters, but at this juncture, in the face of the fact that for half a lifetime neither of the so-called grand old parties has ever carried out the pledges made in its platform, even though it had an overwhelming majority in both branches of the legislature, it is high time they should begin to lay the blame to themselves, if they do not quit voting for the men and the parties by which they have been so shamefully betrayed. There should be no longer any hope in the mind of any American citizen having the least claim to intelligence, that relief from our depressed condition could be secured through the agency of a set of men who have shown themselves to be so utterly devoid of statesmanship and honor. If the financial questions and the social problems which confront us are ever solved it will be done by the intelligent and honest laborers, the men who know what it is to toil; the men whose labor has over produced the necessities of life and who are yet too poor to buy what they need of their own production. They are the men who will know what the trouble is, and where the remedy should be applied. They (unlike our present so-called statesmen), will have the courage of their convictions and will challenge the right of the capitalist, and require him to show cause why he should have a monopoly of every labor saving machine which inventive genius has produced, each of which has displaced from one to many hundreds of laborers, robbing them of the right to toil, who against their will have been added to the fringe of the unemployed. They will

challenge also, the right of the capitalist to the profits on the labor of every man who toils, as well as to the profits on the labor saving machines which he has illegally monopolized.

These statesmen will legalize and give vital force to the principle affecting land which was established in the beginning by unerring justice (and which only waits his return) the fundamental truth that the earth is the heritage of man.

The land monopolist, whether alien or native born, shall relinquish his so-called title, which must revert to the people and to their joint ownership, that its proceeds may never be withheld from any living creature. And then such spectacles as helpless men and women and innocent children living in abject want and suffering the pangs of a living death in sight of bursting granaries and towering storehouses (which they dare not enter) will no longer disgrace our country or mar its happiness.

The statesmen who are to solve these problems and establish justice for the people must come from the ranks of labor; they will be men who have felt the grind of poverty, and who know how helpless is the life and how hard the lot of him whose earnings must pay tribute to that soulless master, the usurer. They must know that ever since the earliest dawn of history the people have been besieged by a set of vampires (fiends in human form) who have sought to monopolize the money of the world in order to be able to exact tribute from the people for its use, and when the astonishing fact is forced upon their minds that the hellish design has already been accomplished and that the great mass of the people of the world—the men who produce the wealth—are mortgaged and bonded to these money fiends in a sum on which the aggregate annual interest exceeds the earning power of all the people, they will not fail to realize the necessity of providing a currency for the people which cannot be manipulated or controlled by the money venter, and which will be so dispensed to them that it shall be within their power to free themselves from the exactions of the usurer, whose nefarious occupation will be gone and he compelled to enter the field of labor to earn his living by the sweat of his face. Having banished machine and labor monopoly, the monopoly of land and, most important of all, money monopoly the dawn of civilization will be ushered in, and in place of the guarantee of equal rights, we shall have equal fraternal justice—that living principle in freedom which makes men free indeed. In the reconstruction which these changes will necessitate, all incentive to crime will be removed, and with new environments calculated to evolve the human nature in man, we will no longer starve or suffer want in the midst of plenty. We will cease to produce millionaires, paupers, anarchists and criminals, which are the natural product of our present system and which we now boast of as a triumph of civilization. These changes seem very desirable, let us make them; but the query is raised, how can it be done? The answer is simple: By the co-operation of all wage-earners at the ballot box.

J. C. HOBSON.

Treason to Principle.

EDITOR ADAMCOTT:—There are rumors in the air of another attempt of treason against the Omaha platform. Whoever attempts to compromise one single principle of that sacred instrument in order to curry favor with and gain votes from any party, is himself an enemy to all true reform; is a traitor to the party he

claims to serve, and will most assuredly be repudiated and relegated to the rear at the very first opportunity of the Kansas voters. No man with an ounce of brains but knows that the terrible struggle of to-day is between the money power on the one side and the toiling millions on the other. No man, having common intelligence, but knows that both the republican and democratic parties in their present attitude are wholly and unblushingly dominated and controlled by the various corporations and combines, whose very existence is a menace to free institutions, and whose boasted millions have been forced from those who earned it by class laws made for that very purpose.

To-day every voter in the United States is exerting his influence either for or against the freedom of the people. There is no middle ground. Every intelligent democrat is well aware that democracy is to-day a unit with republicanism, and that there is but one political party antagonizing that power now threatening the overthrow of civil liberty and that this is the People's party. True Populists will welcome to their ranks all, whether republicans or democrats, who indorse the principles of the Omaha platform, and every voter who refuses his endorsement does so because at heart he endorses the opposite principles. When heaven can fuse with hell, then, and not till then, may the true principles of civil liberty be compromised in order to gain votes. But who are they who so persistently urge fusion? Certainly not the rank and file of the Populists. These men are toiling day and night, brooding the sneers and scoffs of the enemy in order to establish the grand principles of our platform, and that too, with no hope of reward, save that of the attainment of the common weal. These men cannot and will not consent to fusion because they well know this can only lead to confusion and defeat. I venture the assertion that in nine cases out of ten, fusion, or compromise, is advocated by office seekers with no higher motive than that of vote getting. And whoever secures office by the surrender of true principle, is himself a traitor to the cause he claims to serve. The first duty, then, of every loyal Populist, is to down traitors in our own ranks. And this is exactly what we shall do, and don't you forget it.

W. M. GOODNER.

Larned, Kas.

Social, political and economic themes are discussed in the mammoth mid-winter issue of The Arena by Rev. Hiram Vrooman, who writes on "How to Organize the Moral Forces;" J. H. Ballance on "The Relation of the Land Question to Other Reforms;" Congressman John Davis on "Honest and Dishonest Money;" and the editor of The Arena on "The Onward March of Uninvited Poverty." This issue contains a symposium on "Rational Dress for Women." It is profusely illustrated by fifteen large photographs. A fine portrait of Robert Browning forms the frontispiece of this issue, which contains 164 pages.

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